

Remarks

Applicants believe that this amendment places the subject application in better condition for allowance and in so doing introduces no new issues. Therefore, entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending herein is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were originally presented in the subject application. By the foregoing amendment, the Examiner's noted informalities in the specification have been corrected; claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 have been amended, and claims 1 and 15-20 have been withdrawn. Claims 2-14 remain in this case.

Initially, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability given claims 2-14 if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Since claims 3-14 depend from claim 2, claims 2-14 are now believed to be in allowable form.

The Examiner's concerns are addressed separately below in the order raised in the outstanding Office Action. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

The specification has been amended with improved language to clarify its meaning without adding new matter. The individual objections to the specification noted in the Office Action have also been accommodated by the amendments to the specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1 and 15-20 have been withdrawn in the above claim amendments. Amended claim 2 contains the elements of withdrawn claim 1, except that the phrase "and/or" of original claim 1 has been changed to "and" for amended claim 2. Claim 12 has been amended to delete a reference numeral. Claims 7, 8, 10, and 14 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

Specifically, claim 14 has been amended to recite "one or more mechanical abutments which perform the mechanical stop against which the plate of the support can rest, and limit horizontal pivoting of the containment plate." Antecedent basis for this amendment of claim 14 may be found in the specification at p. 8, lines 31-37, to p. 9, lines 1-2. This paragraph has been amended for clarity to read as follows.

Preferably, the oscillations of the first support 2 around the horizontal axis X are however limited . . . with appropriate means of containment, for example end point stops and pivots: In the example embodiment of Figures 1-4 such means of containment of the oscillations around the above mentioned axis X are performed with the three small columns 160 which perform the mechanical stop against which the plate P2 of the first support 2 can rest . . . .

The original claim 4 also included a reference to columns 160, reciting "one or more mechanical butts (160) able to limit said horizontal pivoting of said containment plate (47)." Columns 160 are shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 as amended particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention and that accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 15, and 16, which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, have been withdrawn in the above claim amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 17-20, which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, have been withdrawn in the above claim amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly accommodated or rendered moot.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action at an early date is respectfully requested. However, if any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 50-0734** referencing docket no. 1182.017. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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